

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 3 and claims 2 and 3 are canceled.

An Election of Species was required and Applicant elected Figs. 1-4. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10-12 and 17 read on elected Figs. 1-4 and claim 1 remains generic to non-elected claims 5-7, 9 and 13-16. Rejoinder of the non-elected claims is thus requested when claim 1 is allowed.

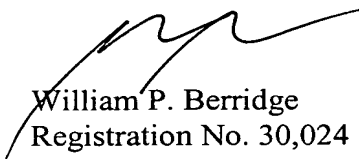
Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 11 and 17.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over JP 2003/161273 (JP'273), and claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP '273 in view of EP 478795, have been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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